

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending and stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for obviousness. New claim 23 is added by the instant amendment. Claim 3 is canceled without prejudice, and Claim 9 is amended to recite a dependent claim from new independent Claim 23. Claims are also amended to address formalities. The prior rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 of Claims 1-2 and 4-8 is traversed as per the examiner's official action. The examiner is requested to please acknowledge the change the attorney docket number to 29-001 submitted with the powers of attorney mailed November 15, 2005.

As described Applicants' bib wearable component is removable from a sheet component and is applied to the garments of the child for protecting the child's clothes while eating. The bib is thus provided as a fully separable adhesive coated component for adhering disposable to the child's chest. The remaining sheet component is then utilized separately as a placemat (See Applicants' Bib Exhibit A hereto). The wearable component 12 is provided, e.g., die-cut, to separate completely from the sheet component 10. The sheet component 10 may include an area formed of a material to which the adhesive covered wearable component 12 can be releasably attached so that the wearable component 12 can be easily removed from the sheet component 10 and adhered to a wearer. Thus, the wearable component 12 is the only component whose back surface is coated with an adhesive. The sheet component 10 may be formed of a material that is sufficiently slick to be used as a liner so that the wearable component 12 can be applied to a front surface of the sheet component without the need for the addition of a material from which the wearable component is readily released.

Claims 1-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for obviousness over U.S. Patent No. 5,056,159 to Zemke, Jr. for "Combination tray and bib" ("Zemke") in view of U.S. Patent 6,256,788 to Loewer for "Disposable bib" ("Loewer"). Zemke describes a tray-bib combination that has a tray portion covering a wearer's lap and a bib portion

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covering a wearer's chest and stomach. The Zemke tray portion forms a cavity with a bottom, sides and sealed ends. The bib portion tears along perforations and folds up from atop the tray to direct spillage into the tray. The tray sides and ends of the tray-bib combination retain the spilled debris in the tray so that it does not spill onto the seat or wearer's lap. As such Zemke is directed to a tray-bib used to protect a wearer from spilled food and liquids. The top portion has a perforated outline of a bib therein so that the bib portion lifts out of the top sheet but remains attached at the lower end to cover the chest and stomach of the wearer, so that when worn, any spills are directed into the tray through the opening in the top sheet remaining upon lifting the bib. Any spillage is directed down the bib and into the attached tray where it is retained in the cavity formed by the tray for disposal. Loewer discloses a bib of absorbent material having a neck cut-out in the upper end and a pressure sensitive adhesive disposed over substantially the entire back surface of the bib except for an un-coated border surrounding the neck cut-out. In another embodiment of Loewer, the pressure sensitive adhesive is applied in strips running from top to bottom near the sides of the back side of the bib.

Independent Claims 1, 17 and 23, on the other hand, recite e.g., the wearable component being releasably disposed within an area of the sheet component ... wherein the wearable component is removed from the sheet component and the sheet component is retained for covering an eating surface (see originally filed Claim 1). Thus the wearable component is releasably disposed, allowing removal for separating the wearable component from the sheet component, with the sheet component separated from the wearable component being retained for covering an eating surface. In addition, Claim 17 has been amended to recite wherein the wearable component is separated from the table surface covering component, allowing the table surface covering component to be removed from the wearable component and retained for covering an eating surface. The separating and removing of the wearable component from the sheet component for covering eating surfaces (not attached solely to cover one's lap) are neither shown nor suggested by Zemke and/or Loewer individually or in combination.

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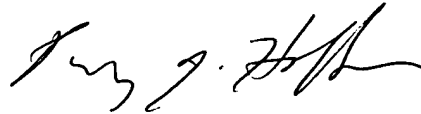
In view of the forgoing, independent Claims 1, 17 and 23 should be allowed, and pending dependent Claims 2, 4-8, 9-16, and 18-22 depending therefrom should also be allowed based on the claim recitations discussed above. Accordingly, Applicants have placed the case in condition for reconsideration and respectfully request timely allowance of pending claims 1-2, 4-22 and New Claim 23.

If the Examiner would like to discuss Applicant's invention prior to issuing an action, the Examiner should feel free to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: _____

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